

EVENTS

Young Audiences of Abilene show to feature a puppeteer/storyteller



Storyteller and puppeteer Dru Woods

By *Janet Van Vleet* of the Abilene Reporter News

Posted: **Yesterday 8:43 p.m.**

Dru Woods has been traveling around the state, weaving stories and introducing a whole slew of children to puppeteering for the past 11 years.

"I had retired as a theater teacher after 30 years," Woods said, "but I was not ready to sit on the porch and rock."

Woods is the second performer in the Summer Library Performance Series presented by Young Audiences of Abilene and the Abilene

Public Library. She will perform at 10:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesday in the auditorium at the main Abilene Public Library, 202 Cedar St.

Woods used to teach puppetry and storytelling to her students. A former student asked if she'd ever been to the annual Texas Storytelling Festival.

Woods went to the event, took a class and she was on her way. She now performs on the roster of Young Audiences groups across Texas and is on the touring roster for the Texas Commission on the Arts.

"The fun thing about (my show) is that I involve the kids," she said. "I do the voices and the children do the puppets."

Woods always has used puppets in her storytelling. She and her students made them in class and they became the vehicles that carried the stories.

She no longer makes her own puppets. Now, she comes up with the story and the puppet is picked to match the story.

Her Abilene program will begin with an introduction to a variety of puppet types, including marionettes.

The theme of the program is "Hooray for Heroes." She'll talk about the characteristics of heroes and tell them the Aesop's Fables story of "The Lion and the Mouse." The youngsters will meet Dex, the brave dachshund, in the "Heart of a Hero."

IF YOU GO

What: Young Audiences of Abilene and the Abilene Public Library present Dru Woods

When: 10:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesday

Where: The upstairs auditorium at the main Abilene Public Library, 202 Cedar St.

Admission: Free

About Janet Van Vleet

Janet Van Vleet is the arts & entertainment editor for the Abilene Reporter-News.

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